

CLAIMS

1. A method for analyzing motion between two images, comprising:
 - generating a single channel image for each of two input images according to a function that measures, for each pixel, occurrence of a desired characteristic, other than luminance alone, in the input images at each pixel location to provide a value for an output pixel in the single channel image from a range of values; and
 - computing an estimate of motion of the desired characteristic between the two images using the single channel images generated for the two input images.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the desired characteristic is edge magnitude.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the desired characteristic is proximity to a color.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - processing the input images according to the estimate of motion.
5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
 - using the estimate of motion to generate several images from the first image to the second image.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the desired characteristic is edge magnitude.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein the desired characteristic is proximity to a color.
8. An apparatus for analyzing motion between two images, comprising:
 - means for generating a single channel image for each of two input images according to a function that measures, for each pixel, occurrence of a desired characteristic, other than luminance alone, in the input images at each pixel location to provide a value for an output pixel in the single channel image from a range of values; and

means for computing an estimate of motion of the desired characteristic between the two images using the single channel images generated for the two input images.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the desired characteristic is edge magnitude.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the desired characteristic is proximity to a color.

11. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

means for processing the input images according to the estimate of motion.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

means for generating several images from the first image to the second image using the estimate of motion.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the desired characteristic is edge magnitude.

14. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the desired characteristic is proximity to a color.

15. A method for image processing, comprising:

computing an estimate of motion between the two images according to a constant edge constraint; and

processing the input images according to the estimate of motion.

16. An apparatus for image processing, comprising:

means for computing an estimate of motion between the two images according to a constant edge constraint; and

means for processing the input images according to the estimate of motion.